IRRIGATION

43. The progress of the irrigation schemes is handicapped by the inability to provide necessary resources. Every effort is being made to complete all the twelve spill-over schemes by the end of the current Plan. Of the six new schemes, Pamba, Kuttiadi and Chitturpuzha which are connected to the utilisation of regulated discharges from Power Schemes have been assigned higher priority. The other three schemes will be spilling over substantially to the Fourth Plan. A total provision of Rs. 1·9 crores is included in the budget for 1964-65 for major irrigation.

44. Minor irrigation works which need smaller outlay but produce quicker results are progressing satisfactorily. The outlay for 1964-65 is Rs. 1·18 crores.

ANTI-SEA EROSION

45. Sea erosion has become a serious problem in this State. During the first two years of the current Plan, sea walls with groynes for a length of 7 miles 1½ furlongs were constructed and it is expected that about 6 miles of sea walls will be completed this year. The original programme was to protect 25 miles of coastline during the Third Plan period. But the havoc caused in recent times to the coast-line calls for a substantial revision of the scope of anti-sea erosion works. The allocation itself has to be stepped up. In November 1963 an expert from the U. S. A. deputed by the Government of India inspected the erosions along our sea coast and suggested changes in the design of the beach-protection works. Revised estimates taking into account his suggestions are being prepared. For 1964-65 a provision of Rs. 80 lakhs is made for anti-sea erosion works.

FISHERIES

46. The scheme for the construction of mechanised boats is in good progress now, when compared with previous years. During 1964-65 it is proposed to construct 50 boats. Besides completing the Azhikode boat yard, a new boat yard will be constructed at Cannanore next year.

47. Preservation of fish is as important as production. The programme for 1964-65 therefore includes the erection of one new ice plant at Cannanore with UNICEF aid and the construction of four insulated vans and two carrier vessels. It is also proposed to install additional equipments in the freezing plants at Kozhikode and Cochin.

48. Kerala is already in the fore-front among the States in India in the matter of fish production. Improved methods of catching, transporting and preserving fish are being steadily applied. Export of fish has been expanding during the past few years. Last year the value of exports passed the four crore mark. The current year promises to be even better.

CO-OPERATION

49. Our efforts at promoting the co-operative movement have met with a great measure of success. The co-operative movement has been revitalised to shoulder the responsibility of increasing agricultural production. The organisation of farming societies on a large scale deserves special mention in this context. Short and medium term credit to the extent of Rs. 12 crores has been afforded to the agriculturists during the current financial year.

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50. With a view to holding the price line and ensuring equitable distribution of essential commodities, the Consumer Co-operative programme has been implemented in the State. Nine District wholesale stores have been set up. 665 Rural Societies have been selected for distribution of consumer goods to the rural population. Consumer stores have been set up in 35 industrial establishments. Efforts to set up Consumer Co-operative Stores in all industrial establishments are being continued.

EDUCATION

51. Every effort is made within the Government's financial capacity, to expand educational facilities in the State. Since the beginning of the Third Plan, 87 Secondary Schools, 421 U. P. Schools and 179 L. P. Schools have been newly opened. The Third Plan targets of additional enrolment in schools are already nearly achieved and very likely they will be exceeded.

52. The facilities in many of the existing schools are far from satisfactory. The accommodation for class rooms and play grounds is not adequate in many of the schools. Enough furniture is not available in all the schools. An immediate solution of these and other allied problems involves the investment of huge amounts and hence can be attempted only in a limited way. Every year provision is being made for acquiring land, constructing or renovating buildings, purchasing furniture, library books and science equipments, and thus in the course of the next few years it will be possible to provide all the schools with necessary facilities.

53. The quality of education particularly of elementary education has to be improved. Children in the formative age group need special attention. Pre-school and primary education should be conducted in an atmosphere conducive to inculcating in the young minds a sense of discipline, a respect for peaceful and orderly life and devotion to noble ideals. This is a field in which constructive research work has to be done. It is proposed to establish a State Institute of Education utilising Central assistance to find out methods of improving the quality of elementary education. The scope of the CARE feeding programme has been extended and nearly 16 lakh children are benefited by the scheme now.

54. On the administrative side also there is need to reorganise the Department to enable it to tackle the complex problems of expansion. Administrative delays are to be obviated and a system of regular and effective inspection introduced. A Special Officer is now studying this question.

55. Besides granting permission to open new private schools, Government propose to open new schools next year also at some of the places where there is absolute necessity. The expenditure on this will be met from over-all savings under the plan schemes relating to general education.

56. Encouragement is given for the study of Sanskrit which is our language of culture, by instituting special scholarships. An incentive scheme for encouraging the education of Muslim girls is also being put through. It is also proposed to supply text books free of cost to poor and needy children in the State during the coming year. This has been made possible by the generous gift of paper by the Governments of Sweden and Australia for which we are grateful to them.

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